

## Blighted.

BY W. E. SKEE.  
Once to me the world was glorious  
As a fairy fabled isle,  
And I cherished hopes as joyous  
As an angel's purest smile.  
How I loved spring's days of flowers,  
When the myriad songs arise!  
Loved the summer's leafy bower:  
Loved the autumn's mystic dyes;  
Loved the crow's harsh note of calling,  
Music to her dusky love,  
And the snow so gently falling.  
Like a message from above.  
How I trusted every promise!  
Wondering how a doubt would seem.  
Little dreaming that life's commerce  
Were so much a sordid scheme.  
Now my life has learned the lesson  
Sad of love, and woe, and hate;  
And that sombre weird procession  
Tranquillized by the march of fate.  
Joy and I have wildly parted—  
Down beside love's blissful stream:  
Words tell not how broken heart  
Is the waking from that dream.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, August 22.  
The Canadian Government will now have to "show down," the President's proclamation imposing a toll on all freights passing through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal having been issued Saturday. It was only when President Harrison became convinced that the Canadian Government was trying to stave off a settlement of the question that he directed the Secretary of State to make public the proclamation. It is the impression here that the proclamation will soon be rescinded, because it is believed that the Canadian Government will now, when it can no longer escape, do the right thing by the American shippers.

There is a little stir in the Department of Justice over a letter received there Saturday. The letter was from Mr. J. W. Hayes, General Secretary of the Knights of Labor, and its subject the inhuman treatment of the United States prisoners at Boise City, Idaho, who are awaiting trial for complicity in the recent labor riots in the mining districts. Mr. Hayes said in his letter that a prisoner named Peter Green had been a particular victim of the cruelty of the United States Marshal. The acting Attorney-General—all the departments have acting heads these days—wired Mr. Hayes that the matter would be immediately investigated. He also wired a special agent of the department, already in Idaho, to go to Boise City, investigate the charge, and report at once also to see that no cruelty or abuses are practised on any United States prisoners there. Mr. Hayes's charge is regarded at the department as being as serious as it is unusual.

It is positively refreshing to meet a politician who neither knows it all nor claims it all. Representative Bynum, of Indiana, fresh from New York, was caught on the fly by your correspondent, and asked for some political news. He surprised me by saying: "It is impossible for any one not familiar with New York politics to judge of the situation of that State, whether he stays there two weeks or two months. I cannot attempt to say what the situation there is. New York Democrats say things are all right. I do not know." In the last four words—"I do not know"—Mr. Bynum said what every man must say who conscientiously speaks the truth as to his actual knowledge of the national political situation. Your correspondent has been writing of national politics for many years, but he has never known a campaign when within ten weeks of election day there was so little to base anything bearing even a semblance of an authentic prediction upon as at the present time. Democrats and Republicans alike, when talking for publication, make the usual sweeping claims, but they will afterwards tell you, prefacing it with the newspaper man's dreaded "Don't print this," that everything is in doubt.

Never was there a national campaign in which the employees of the Government departments took such little interest as in the present one. President Harrison and Mr. Cleveland being both committed to the enforcement of the Civil Service Law, the clerks all feel that their places are equally safe whenever is elected, so they appear to have adopted the I-don't-care policy. It is safe to say that the campaign fund raised in the departments will be smaller than ever before.

The Eight-Hour Law passed at the last session of Congress is apparently giving Government officials lots of trouble. It is either very complicated, or the construction put upon it by various officials has been with the deliberate intention of making it so appear.

The first move to make the new law unpopular was the announcement that its enforcement would add about \$3,000,000 to the cost of work upon public buildings to be done during the current fiscal year.

The acting Secretary of the Treasury recently requested the acting Attorney-General to furnish him with an official construction of the law, and a day or two ago the astonishing announcement was made that the acting Attorney-General had for technical reasons declined to pass an opinion on the law.

He says he will not pass on the law until it comes before him in some case arising out of its administration.

In other words, the Department of Justice, supposed to be maintained largely for the purpose of advising the officials of the Government on complicated legal questions, declines to construe this law and put it out of the power of departmental officials to make errors in construing it for themselves

until after numbers of such errors shall have been made. The position of the acting Attorney-General may be, and doubtless is, strictly legal, but it clashes with everyday common sense.

Several members of the People's party National Committee are in Washington

on their way to the meeting of the Committee to be held in New York on Thursday of this week. They say that this meeting will select an executive committee which will open headquarters in New York city and become active rivals of the older parties in the circulation of educational campaign literature.

## Food for Everybody.

The September number of *Food* closes the first volume of that unique and useful magazine. There is a certain literary symmetry about *Food* that is not noticeable any too often in the so-called standard magazines of the day—it is excellent throughout. It grows in intensity of interest with each successive issue, and evinces a purpose on the part of its editors to develop its practical and popular features, while not sacrificing in the least its literary excellence.

While it may not be quite true, as one writer says of *Food*, that "no housekeeper can properly conduct the culinary department of her home without it," it is safe to say that any intelligent housekeeper to whom *Food* is a regular visitor may properly administer that department of her realm. If you will examine a sample copy, you will agree with us that it is one of the few excellent publications of its kind.

The publishers are offering free to every subscriber at \$2.00 a copy of Miss Parloa's "Kitchen Companion," the regular price of which is \$2.50, and they desire agents in every town to represent their subscription department. *Food* is published by The Clover Publishing Co., 71-73 Park Place, New York.—Adet.



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